Lillian Vu

January 23, 2017

Trifles Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

The Wright’s far home in 1916. Mr. Hale, the sheriff, and the attorney are all inside the Wright’s home to investigate Mr. Wright’s death. Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale are there to gather Mrs. Wright’s belongings, out of her request.

2. What is the *intrusion*? Ie. What causes the dramatic action to race toward the end of the play?

I believe the stumbling upon the dead canary is the intrusion. This disrupted the stasis of the investigation and this is where the investigation really picks up.

3. What is the *unique factor*? Ie. Why has the playwright decided to choose this moment in time to move the dramatic action forward?

The unique factor is the way the canary died. Similar to how Mr. Wright died. The ladies have been talking for a while about how Mrs. Wright used to be lively and sang and all that as Minnie Foster until she married. After finding the canary and comparing it to Minnie Foster, it was the most intense moment to reveal the bird.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that is to be answered by the end of the play?

Will the women submit the evidence and turn in Mrs. Wright?

5. There are many *forwards* that are designed to raise and hold your interest. Identify a few of them below.

* The badly stitched quilt.
* The finding of the bird cage.
* The bird itself.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

I think the most theatrical moment in the play was when the ladies decided to hide the evidence from the men. This signifies how the men’s sexism has worked against them, and the women hold the evidence the men need to convict Mrs. Wright.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Gender Roles

Loneness

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

The men want to find evidence and the women are the obstacles; or more, their sexist ignorance.

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

The image of the quilt and the question of whether it should be knotted or quilted really ties in with the play’s title. The men called it trifles, but its just that, that the women ended up finding the evidence.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

Marriages seem to be one sided in power. The men look down on the women and the women stick together. There’s the relationship between husband and wife that is shown and then the relationship between the women who all understand each other.